

To whom it may concern:

This letter is in response to your request for input regarding specific interactions with Canadian vessels in U.S. waters this past season. I have been fishing albacore for about 30 years, the last 14 on my 62' vessel, "Captain Banjo". Our average catch has been around 90 tons per year. Although Canadian interactions are not something we normally enter in our logbooks, one specific incident comes to mind.

In early September, after a summer of very slow fishing, we finally were in a decent area of small schools 100 miles n/w of Eureka, CA. On the evening of Sept.10th, after drifting and jogging in bad weather for 2 days we were finally back on fish. Just before dark I noticed 2 Canadian boats just outside me. We had a good evening bite and shutdown on the fish. The next morning, we started up at daylight in bad visibility (fog) and had approx. 25 boats within 3 miles of us. When the fog lifted, we realized that there were more like 40 Canadians all around us. The bite dropped off so we moved east. They followed.

On Sept.12th & 13th the Canadians ran us off school after school. We finally gave up and headed into Charleston, OR on 9/14/11. All this is documented in my logbook. We left many areas of fish earlier in the season due to the same scenario.

Albacore don't bite well when pressured by lots of boats in close proximity; usually the schools go down and the fish scatter. The Canadians fish in big packs of boats and watch our every move. It's heartbreaking to spend all day looking for a good school only to be run off by foreign boats in our "exclusive economic zone."

Please discontinue the current fishing regime and allow our fishermen to thrive, creating more jobs for our young men, not foreigners.

Respectfully,

Henry "Skip" McMaster
AAFA Board Member